

Pattern of Violations Screening Criteria - 2010

A computer-generated report is run that retrieves data for the most recent 12 months in which data are available for every mine under MSHA's jurisdiction. All non-abandoned mines (on the date the report is generated) are reviewed to determine if a potential pattern of violations may exist.

Initial Screening Criteria (30 CFR §104.2)

The following two sets of screening criteria are used to perform the initial screening required under 30 CFR §104.2. Mines must meet the criteria in **either** set to be further considered for exhibiting a potential pattern of violations.

Mines meeting **all** of the following four criteria are further screened to identify those that meet appropriate criteria, as specified in 30 CFR §104.3, for a potential pattern of violations.

1. At least 50 citations/orders for significant and substantial (S&S) violations **issued** in the most recent 12 months.
2. A rate of eight or more S&S citations/orders **issued** per 100 inspection hours during the most recent 12 months **OR** the degree of negligence for at least 25 percent of the S&S citations/orders **issued** during the most recent 12 months is “high” or “reckless disregard.”
3. At least 0.5 elevated citations and orders [issued under section 104(b); 104(d); 104(g); or 107(a) of the Mine Act] **issued** per 100 inspection hours during the most recent 12 months.
4. An Injury Severity Measure¹ (SM) for the mine that is greater than the overall Industry SM for all mines in the same mine type and classification over the most recent 12 months.²

Or

Mines meeting **both** of the following two criteria are further screened to identify those that meet appropriate criteria, as specified in 30 CFR §104.3, for a potential pattern of violations.

1. At least 100 S&S citations/orders **issued** in the most recent 12 months.
2. At least 40 elevated citations and orders [issued under section 104(b); 104(d); 104(g); or 107(a) of the Mine Act] **issued** during the most recent 12 months.

Pattern Criteria Screening (30 CFR §104.3)

30 CFR § 104.3 requires that one of the following pattern criteria be met: (1) a history of repeated S&S violations of a particular standard; (2) a history of repeated S&S violations of standards related to the

¹ Severity measure is the number of lost workdays per 200,000 employee-hours. The severity measure formula is $SM = (\text{Number of lost workdays} \times 200,000) \div \text{Number of employee-hours}$.

² There are six mine types and classifications: underground coal mines; surface coal mines; surface coal facilities; underground metal and nonmetal mines; surface metal and nonmetal mines; and surface metal and nonmetal facilities.

same hazard; or (3) a history of repeated S&S violations caused by unwarrantable failure to comply. Only citations and orders that are final may be considered in determining if these criteria have been met.

For a pattern of violations review, mines identified during the initial screening must have at least five S&S citations of the same standard that became **final orders** of the commission during the most recent 12 months **OR** at least two S&S unwarrantable failure violations that became **final orders** of the commission during the most recent 12 months.